



# UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

SW  
UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE  
United States Patent and Trademark Office  
Address: COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450  
www.uspto.gov

APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/082,779	02/25/2002	Scott C. DiNapoli	F-386	4414
919	7590	03/24/2004	EXAMINER	
PITNEY-BOWES INC. 35 WATERVIEW DRIVE P.O. BOX 3000 MSC 26-22 SHELTON, CT 06484-8000			BUTLER, MICHAEL E	
		ART UNIT		PAPER NUMBER
		3653		
DATE MAILED: 03/24/2004				

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

## Office Action Summary

Application No. <b>10/082,779</b>	Applicant(s) <b>DiNapoli et al.</b>
Examiner <b>Michael E. Butler</b>	Art Unit <b>3653</b>

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

### Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136 (a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133).
- Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

### Status

1)  Responsive to communication(s) filed on Jan 12, 2004

2a)  This action is FINAL. 2b)  This action is non-final.

3)  Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11; 453 O.G. 213.

4)  Claim(s) 1-8 is/are pending in the application.

4a) Of the above, claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are withdrawn from consideration.

5)  Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are allowed.

6)  Claim(s) 1-8 is/are rejected.

7)  Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are objected to.

8)  Claims \_\_\_\_\_ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

### Application Papers

9)  The specification is objected to by the Examiner.

10)  The drawing(s) filed on \_\_\_\_\_ is/are a)  accepted or b)  objected to by the Examiner.  
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).

11)  The proposed drawing correction filed on \_\_\_\_\_ is: a)  approved b)  disapproved by the Examiner.  
If approved, corrected drawings are required in reply to this Office action.

12)  The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner.

### Priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 119 and 120

13)  Acknowledgement is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).  
a)  All b)  Some\* c)  None of:  
1.  Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.  
2.  Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. \_\_\_\_\_.  
3.  Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

\*See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

14)  Acknowledgement is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(e).  
a)  The translation of the foreign language provisional application has been received.

15)  Acknowledgement is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 120 and/or 121.

### Attachment(s)

1)  Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) 4)  Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s). \_\_\_\_\_

2)  Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) 5)  Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)

3)  Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449) Paper No(s). \_\_\_\_\_ 6)  Other: \_\_\_\_\_

**DETAILED ACTION**

The text of those sections of Title 35, U.S. Code not included in this action can be found in a prior Office Action, and apply to this and any subsequent Office Actions.

***Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103***

1. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negatived by the manner in which the invention was made.

2. Claims 1-8 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Stengl in view of Luperti et al. in which Stengl discloses the elements previously discussed and further discloses:

(Re: cl 1) An enclosure feeder system (500) for use with an inserter system that combines collations in a sequence of collations with a given number of respective corresponding specific enclosures, the enclosure feeder system for providing the enclosures to be combined with the collations, the enclosures for each successive collation ordinarily being separator by a divider indicator for indicating the end of the sequence of enclosures for a collation, the enclosure feeder system (500) comprising: enclosure feeding means (210), responsive to a feed count request for a collation and to an expected number of respective corresponding specific enclosures, for feeding the specific enclosures and for providing an enclosure count corresponding to the number of specific enclosures actually fed (c1 L 43-59);

and supervisory control means (300), responsive to the expected number of respective corresponding specific enclosures, for providing the feed count request for a collation and the expected number of respective corresponding specific enclosures, and further responsive to the enclosure count corresponding to the number of specific enclosures actually fed, for comparing the number of enclosures actually fed for a collation to the expected number of respective corresponding specific enclosures (300; c12 L 55-c13 L 4); wherein the enclosure feeding means (210) continues feeding enclosures for the collation until the number of enclosures is equal to the expected number of

Art Unit: 3653

•enclosures (c 13 L 15-19);

(Re: cl 2) enclosure feeder system further comprising an input analyzer (501) for providing for each collation in the sequence of collations the expected number of respective corresponding specific enclosures; wherein the input analyzer (501) determines the expected number of respective corresponding specific enclosures based on information provided in a control document included in each collation (c 13 L 15-19);

(Re: cl 5) A method for monitoring and coordinating the processing of a sequence of collations through an inserter system, the inserter system for combining each collation in the sequence of collations with a given number of respective corresponding specific enclosures, the enclosures for each successive collation ordinarily being separator by a divider indicator for indicating the end of the sequence of enclosures for a collation, the method comprising: determining (401) for each collation in the sequence of collations the expected number of respective corresponding specific enclosures (c13 L 54-56);

searching (403) for each collation for an indication of the end of the sequence of enclosures for the collation c 13 L 60-c 14 L 14);

and feeding (403) the specific enclosures until either reaching the indication of the end of the sequence of enclosures for the collation or until having fed a number of enclosures equal to the expected number of enclosures (c14 L 1-10);

(Re: cl 6) the expected number of respective corresponding specific enclosures is determined based on information provided in a control document included in each collation (c14 L 24-34).

Lupertie et al. discloses the elements not inherently disclosed by Stengl of:

(Re: cl 1,5) monitoring for both feeding enclosures until a divider indicator is encountered or the expected number of enclosures is encountered (c7 L 1-40)

(Re: cl 3, 7) method and apparatus with enclosure feeder system further wherein if the enclosure feeding means discontinues feeding enclosures before encountering and recognizing a divider indicator, then the enclosure feeding means uses as the enclosure count for the collation a number based on the expected number of enclosures, and otherwise uses the number of enclosures actually fed for the collation (c7 L 1-40;c 16L 26-30);

(Re: cl 4, 8) enclosure feeder system wherein the number based on the expected number of enclosures used as the enclosure count is one more than the expected number of enclosures (c7 L 1-40 ; c16 L 15-23; c13 L 45-50).

It would have been obvious for Stengl to be modified to stop if a divider were encountered or an overcount of expected documents were reached because if expected enclosures are omitted the divider alerts the feeder system to not feed the next document from the next intended enclosure as well exceeding envelope capacity would result in a

Art Unit: 3653

failure to as taught by Luperti et al. and come up with the instant invention as claimed.

It would have been obvious for Stengl to specify an overcount number equal to one more than the expected number of enclosures to avert inserting extraneous or duplicated enclosures being fed as taught by Luperti et al. and come up with the instant invention as claimed.

***Response to Amendments/Arguments***

3. Applicant's amendment was effective in defining the scope of the claim limitations and the rejection under 35 U.S.C. 112 second paragraph has been overcome. Applicant's amendment was effective in defining the scope of the claim limitations of Stengl so the double patenting rejection has been overcome. Applicant's amendment was effective in overcoming the obviousness rejection. The applicant's amendment and arguments have been fully considered but they are unpersuasive in overcoming the obviousness prior art rejections.

Luperti et al. discloses monitoring for and feeding until divider indicators are encountered.

***Conclusion***

4. **THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL.** Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire THREE MONTHS from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within TWO MONTHS of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after the end of the THREE-MONTH shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any

Art Unit: 3653

extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than SIX MONTHS from the mailing date of this final action.

5. The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure.

6. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Exmr. Michael E. Butler whose telephone number is (703) 308-8344.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Donald Walsh, can be reached on (703) 306-4173. The fax number for the Group is (703) 305-7687.



Michael E. Butler

Examiner



DONALD P. WALSH  
SUPERVISORY PATENT EXAMINER  
TECHNOLOGY CENTER 3600